

Committee on Public Safety

*Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair
Councilor Jesse M. Adams
Councilor William H. Dwight
Councilor David A. Murphy*

***Committee on Public Safety
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building
212 Main Street, Northampton, MA***

Meeting Minutes

*October 6, 2014 Meeting
5:00 pm*

1. Members Present/Absent

Members Present: Councilor Carney, Councilor Dwight, Councilor Murphy (5:10pm arrival)

Members Absent: Councilor Adams

2. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting

Councilor Carney announced that the meeting would be Video & Audio recorded.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

4.1. Meeting Minutes Of September 8, 2014

*Councilor Dwight moved approval of the Committee on Public Safety minutes of Sept. 8, 2014;
Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes,
0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Adams).*

5. Departmental Presentations

5.1. Fire/EMS & Dispatch Presentation

Kelly Banister presented for City Dispatch. Ms. Banner indicated that she is looking to update equipment, including Fire Dept. Station Alerting System. This equipment is outdated and failing; an update is now necessary. Regarding Dispatch radios: the City's system is no longer supported by the manufacturer. Software updates and part replacement may be difficult in the near future.

Chief Duggan reports that there are four new full time and one reserve fire fighters. The openings happened because of retirements in the department. A full staff helps to control overtime; full staff plus two allows for coverage for vacations, sick time, etc.

There were three recent incidents for Northampton Fire/Rescue. They were: a home fire on North Farms Road that resulted in \$2 mil in damage; a second alarm fire on Main St. in Leeds; A motor vehicle accident on Rt. 9 in Haydenville which took the life of a Northampton resident.

New fire codes have been received - the NFPA1 National Code is currently published for comment. Training in the Code is currently taking place and will continue through December. Fire prevention is becoming a more technical issue; the standard is intended to provide more interpretation and allow for less ambiguity.

Chief Duggan presented the Departmental Capital Projects Summary for Fire and Rescue. Critical Projects include: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Replacement of Command Vehicle, Replacement of an Ambulance, and New Communications equipment.

Fire prevention revenue for FY 2014 was approx. \$120,000; ambulance revenue was \$1.6 million.

Some members of the Northampton FD take part in the regionalized effort for fire and rescue. The Western Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team is comprised of fire fighters from the Franklin, Hampshire, Berkshire and Hampden Counties. This dedicated team applies special knowledge, skills, and equipment to safely resolve unique and or complex rescue situations, including: high/low angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, and structural collapse.

6. New Business

None

7. Adjourn

At 6:00 p.m., Councilor Dwight moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Adams).

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